

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00886 120438Z
ACTION PER-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 /031 W
-----098797 130418Z /23S
R 111040Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6368
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DHAHRAN 0886

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, SA
SUBJ: SAUDI DECREE AGAINST WOMEN WORKING

REF: (A) RIYADH 0397, (B) DHAHRAN 0778, (C) RIYADH 0547,

1. CONSOFFS HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS OVER PAST FEW DAYS WITH CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FOR SAUDI ARABIAN BECHTEL CO. REGARDING COMPANY'S PROBLEMS WITH LOCAL LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS OVER THE QUESTION OF WORKING WOMEN. AS INDICATED IN PARA 2 OF REFTTEL B, BECHTEL HAD RECEIVED VEILED WARNINGS CONCERNING A RAID ON THEIR OFFICE BY LABOR OFFICIALS IN MID-JUNE. ON 4 JULY, BECHTEL RECEIVED NOTICE THAT AN INSPECTION OF THEIR WORKING PREMISES WOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHIN 7 OR 8 DAYS. BECHTEL IMMEDIATELY DISCHARGED ALL OF ITS FEMALE CLERICAL HELP IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS INSPECTION. AS OF 11 JULY SUCH AN INSPECTION HAD NOT YET BEEN CONDUCTED AND, ACCORDING TO COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES, WORK IN COMPANY OFFICES HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY GROUND TO A HALT. LACKING AT PRESENT ALMOST ALL CLERICAL SUPPORT, COMPANY OFFICERS ARE ATTEMPTING WITH LITTLE SUCCESS TO MAKE UP THIS DEFICIENCY THEMSELVES.

2. COMMENT: UNLIKE MANY SPORADIC ENFORCEMENTS OF NEW
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DECREE PROHIBITING WOMEN FROM WORKING WITHOUT PROPER PERMITS, CURRENT LABOR MINISTRY PRESSURE ON BECHTEL SEEMS WELL-ORGANIZED AND DETERMINED. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES PRIVATELY FEAR THAT CURRENT ENFORCEMENT MEASURES MAY NOT BE AS TRANSITORY AS PREVIOUS ONES BECAUSE OF THE WAY THAT BECHTEL HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN SINGLED OUT AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER FIRMS. POST WILL ADVISE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

IN BECHTEL'S CASE.

MEYERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WOMEN, LAW, EMPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Line Count: 64
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4806cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 78 RIYADH 397, 78 DHAHRAN 778, 78 RIYADH 547
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Subject: SAUDI DECREE AGAINST WOMEN WORKING
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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